

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SY-05

OPR-02 /067 W

----- 126089

O 131815Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7950

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE

SOUTHCOT QUARRY HTS PANAMA

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8298

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS ASEC EC

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT #1 ON ECUADOREAN NATIONWIDE STRIKE:  
12 NOON EST

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS OF 12 NOON, THURSDAY, NOV. 13, WE  
ESTIMATE THE NATIONWIDE STRIKE IS ABOUT 80 PER CENT EFFECTIVE.  
SCATTERED ACTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE OCCURRED, NONE THUS FAR AIMED  
AT US CITIZENS OR FACILITIES, BUT IN GENERAL THE SITUATION  
SEEMS QUIET. END SUMMARY.

2. IN QUITO, THE NATIONWIDE STRIKE CALLED BY THE THREE  
PRINCIPAL ECUADOREAN LABOR CONFEDERATIONS HAVE PROVEN ABOUT  
80 PER CENT EFFECTIVE IN MAJOR CITIES AND EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE  
AMONG STRIKING UNIONS. SOME BANKS AND BUSINESSES ARE OPEN, BUT  
MANY APPEAR TO HAVE USED THE STRIKE AS A PRETEXT TO TAKE A  
DAY OFF. TRAFFIC IS DOWN BY ABOUT 80 PER CENT, MAINLY DUE TO  
THE ABSENCE FROM THE STREETS OF MOST BUSES, TAXIS AND TRUCKS.  
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IS CONTINUING, ALBEIT AT A REDUCED  
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LEVEL, BUT ONLY A HANDFUL OF ROADBLOCKS HAVE BEEN THROWN

UP IN THE QUITO IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF CATHOLIC AND CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES.

3. ALL QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL UTILITIES ARE CONTINUING TO FUNCTION (WATER, ELECTRICITY, TELEPHONES, ETC.); QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL MORNING NEWSPAPERS CAME OUT ON SCHEDULE; QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL AIRPORTS ARE OPEN AND BRANIFF AND ECUATORIANA FLIGHTS OPERATED ON SCHEDULE, ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED.

4. THERE IS NO UNUSUAL TROOP ACTIVITY IN EVIDENCE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW MORE POLICEMEN ON THE STREETS THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED. ABOUT 10:30 A.M., A HANDFUL OF POLICEMEN LOBBED ONE TEAR-GAS GRENADE AT 7 STUDENTS IN FRONT OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (2 BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY), BUT THE POLICE DID NOT BOTHER TO DISMANTLE THE ROADBLOCK THE STUDENTS HAD SET UP. A GROUP OF AROUND 250 STUDENTS CLASHED WITH POLICE AT CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, AND WERE DISPERSED WITH TEAR GAS; ALTHOUGH A FEW ROCKS HAVE BEEN THROWN AT CARS IN THE VICINITY OF CENTRAL AND CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES, TRAFFIC OTHERWISE IS REDUCED BUT FLOWING NORMALLY.

5. RADIO NEWS REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM CONGEN GUAYAQUIL INDICATE THAT ALTHOUGH THE NATIONWIDE STRIKE IS QUITE EFFECTIVE IN OTHER CITIES AND PROVINCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE SITUATION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY QUIET AND CALM.

6. THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO ACTS OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST AMERICAN FACILITIES OR PERSONNEL, ALTHOUGH POLICE HAVE TOLD US THAT AT LEAST TWO STUDENT GROUPS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE EMBASSY. UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT OTHERWISE, EMBASSY WILL SEND NEXT SITREP AT 5:00 P.M. EST.  
BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, ASEC, ELAB, EC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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